

REMARKS

An amendment to Figure 4 is enclosed to overcome the objection of the Examiner to the Drawings.

Amendments to the specification have been made to overcome the objections of the Examiner to the disclosure.

Claims 1-20 have been rewritten to overcome the objections to them because of the informalities specified in paragraph 3 of the Office Action and to overcome the objection to those claims in paragraph 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 1,3, 6, 8, 11-15,17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nakano et al., U.S. Publication No. 2001/0044667.

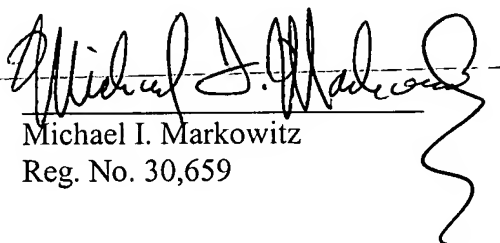
Since the effective date of Nakano et al. is its U.S filing date, May 16, 2001, and since a verified English translation of the Priority Document herein, Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-354306 is enclosed with a filing date of November 21, 2000, prior to May 16, 2001, Nakano et al. has been overcome as a reference and the objections should be withdrawn, see 35 U.S.C. §102(e)(1); Manual of Examining Procedure §§ 201.15,706.02(f)(1).

Claims 2 and 16 were found to contain allowable subject matter in paragraph 18 of the Office Action. Claims 2 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form in order to place them in condition for allowance. Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 18 and 19 are directly or indirectly dependent upon one of claims 2 or 16, and thus the aforementioned claims are also in condition for allowance.

Please charge Deposit Account 50-1290 the sum of \$172.00 for two (2) independent claims added by this amendment in excess of the those already paid for in this application.

Please charge Deposit Account 50-1290 for any fee due not covered by an enclosed check.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Verified English Translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-354306,
filed on November 21, 2000.
Amended Fig. 4.

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